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3 November 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

Subject: Immediate Psychological Measures to attain U. S.
National Objectives.

Reference: a. SANAC 5781 dated 24 October 1947
b. SANACC 304/10 dated 3 November 1947

1. Reference a appointed me as the CIA representative on an ad hoc committee of SANACC to consider and make recommendations, as a matter of urgency, on the problem: "Should the U.S. at the present time utilize co-ordinated psychological measures in furtherance of the attainment of its national objectives? If so, what organization is required and what should be its terms of reference?"

2. This committee held sessions every afternoon last week, some of them extending until late in the evening, and an all-day session on Saturday, 1 November.

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3. I was briefed on the background of this subject by [redacted] whose alternate I have been on the SANACC Subcommittee on Special Studies and Evaluations. General Wright gave me specific instructions as to your point of view, particularly that whatever agency be set up in furtherance of U.S. national objectives through immediate psychological measures should be organized within the framework of the National Security Council. General Wright further stated that any specific reference to the conduct of black propaganda by the CIA should be omitted from any committee report or recommendations, since this function is being allocated to the CIA by a pending NSC directive, in implementation of the generic provisions of an existing public law.

4. The committee report has just been published today as Reference b. I understand that a meeting of SANACC is to be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, to which you are to be invited, and that this matter is the last of four items on its agenda. I further understand that, after the first three items on the agenda have been concluded, the meeting will be cleared of all individuals excepting those who are directly concerned with this subject.

5. I should like to call attention to the divergence of views outlined in the Appendix to Reference b as to the location of the Board recommended by the committee within the structure of the U.S. Government. The members of the committee supporting the view that the organization proposed be located within the framework of the National Security Council have crystallized their

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viewpoints on this matter in rebuttal to possible State Department arguments, as follows:

a. NSC is not an operating agency.

Answer: Neither is the Committee of Two. We are not assigning operating responsibilities to it but merely responsibilities for broad policy guidance.

b. NSC is not physically set up to absorb these additional secretarial loads at the present time.

Answer: Provision is made in Section 8 of the Conclusions for the temporary use of the SANACC Secretariat, which can be done without delay.

c. A shift can be made at a later date to the NSC set-up, which is confessedly better on a long-term basis than the Committee of Two set-up.

Answer: The original plan and organization will have to be decided by the President. It will be extremely difficult and cumbersome to change later, possibly in a few weeks or months.

6. It might be further observed that, since it appears to be the consensus that any emergency or war-time organization for psychological action would be under the NSC, and since it likewise appears to be the consensus that any such organization would be merely an extension and expansion of any peacetime organization, it seems logical to place the proposed peace-time organization under the NSC, to obviate the need for later change-over and to facilitate rapid expansion, should an emergency arise or war be declared.

7. Should it seem desirable to modify the committee's recommendations by proposing that the top responsibility under the NSC be vested in an individual Director rather than in a board, I should like to point out that this would involve a very slight change in the wording of the committee's recommendations. This change would consist in assigning to the Director himself the board's responsibilities, and in assigning to it merely advisory responsibilities under the Director.

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ccs:

General Wright

General Wright

[redacted]
CIA Member on SANACC Ad Hoc
Committee on Immediate Psy-
chological Action

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